Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

Positive flow cut off of a filling apparatus is difficult to achieve in sanitary valves, especially when viscous fluids are being dispensed which have a tendency to leave tailings that cling to the dispenser nozzle after a dispensing cycle. For example, when running hot process cheese at 160 to 180 degrees Fahrenheit, it is difficult to achieve positive flow cutoff in a filling apparatus using conventional sanitary filling valves. Upon full closure of a dispensing valve, residual cheese tends to adhere to external valve surfaces. This retention can lead to unacceptable variability in weight control for the packaged cheese. In addition, the residue can become dislodged at a later time, and possibly drip or otherwise drop onto an underlying conveyor belt or other surfaces. ~~where it can soil surfaces and make the processing environment less sanitary.~~ Removal of the drip or tailing residues from the nozzle by mechanical or manual means is generally difficult or overly burdensome in practice. ~~because of the increased measures that need to be taken to avoid contamination and maintain sanitary conditions at the dispenser nozzle.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

A need still exists for fluid dispenser arrangements that will ensure that residual material is cleaned off of dispenser nozzles as part of each dispensing cycle so that the amount of food dispensed from one filling cycle to the next does not vary. ~~, and so that the sanitary condition of the dispenser can be better maintained.~~ Further, there is a need for a solution to the nozzle clinging/dripping problem that does not require fundamental design changes in the dispensers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

In an embodiment, the nozzle attachment includes a retainer by which it is releasably attachable to a dispensing nozzle, and a pair of hollow-bodied nozzle attachment components that define, when nested together, an intervening space that serves as a gas passageway in-between them into which pressurized gaseous fluid can be introduced. The introduced pressurized gas flows into the gas passageway and from there is directed to a discharge opening thereof provided at a lower axial end of the nested nozzle attachment components. The gas passageway present in the assembled nozzle attachment is adapted to emit a gas stream at an inward and downward angle relative to a discharge end of the dispensing nozzle effective to create a shearing force at the discharge end of the nozzle that dislodges and removes any residual material clinging to the discharge end after a prior dispensing operation or cycle. This ensures that residual material is cleaned off of the dispenser nozzles as part of each dispensing cycle so that the amount of food dispensed from one filling cycle to the next does not vary.~~, and the sanitary condition of the dispenser is better maintained.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 31, with the following amended paragraph:

For purposes herein, the term "fluid" means materials in a wet flowable condition, including liquids, slurries, emulsions, pastes, creams, hot melts, and so forth. The term "gas" can mean dry gases, and vapors, such as steam. The term "manual cleaning" means total disassembly for cleaning and inspection. "Clean-out-of-place" or "COP" means a part can be partially dissembled and cleaned, such as in specialized COP pressure tanks. "Clean-in-Place" or "CIP" means no disassembly or partial disassembly is required to clean a part. ~~"Sanitize" or "sanitary" and the like refers to the reduction of microorganisms to levels considered safe from a public health standpoint. "Sterilize" or "sterile" and the like refers to the statistical destruction and removal of all living organisms.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

No tools are needed to assemble or dismantle (disassemble) the nozzle attachment part, as this can be done fully by hand in a "tool-less manner." All the internal surfaces and parts of the nozzle attachment can be inspected after disassembly of the component. The nozzle attachment also could be used in a clean-out-of-place mode where the part is dismantled substantially but not completely during inspection and cleaning procedures, depending on where the cleaning ~~and sanitary~~ concerns are the greatest with respect to the part. For example, it may not be necessary to fully dismantle the wing-nut tightening parts for cleaning procedures used in some in applications, such as some non-food processing applications.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

The nozzle attachment of this invention is ~~sanitary~~ dairy, meat, or poultry ~~3-A~~ compatible. ~~and meets the requirements of USDA 3-A sanitary applications.~~ The nozzle attachment of this invention can be used on most standard sanitary filling valves, and it can be interchanged between filling valves of the same size. The nozzle attachment of this invention can be used in food processing applications as a clean-out-of-place or manually cleanable part. It has no hidden passageways, which permits full inspection and cleaning. The nozzle attachment can be used in conjunction with the most rapid fill and low tolerance weight operations because it does not adversely affect the weight operation. The nozzle attachment can be used to remove residual material adhering to the end of the valve as well as provide gas flush capabilities for modified atmosphere packaging ("MAP") for all the benefits gained with reduced oxygen levels. In an alternative embodiment, the nozzle attachment also permits the gas blow system to be directly connected to a Clean-In-Place (CIP) system.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

In one non-limiting example, a sanitary design of the nozzle attachment can be provided by use of stainless steel for all parts of the nozzle attachment. For example, ~~316L~~ stainless steel can be used for all parts of the nozzle attachment. Alternatively, the various nozzle attachment parts also can be made of other suitable materials that can be shaped into the applicable configurations, such as plastic materials, ceramic materials, and so forth, and, if desired or necessary, ~~which~~ can be maintained in a sanitary condition. The same or different types of such materials can be used for the various parts of a given nozzle attachment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

In addition, the wetted parts of the dispenser, including, for example, the valve stem, valve head, and valve body, also can be made out of ~~316~~ stainless steel. ~~304 stainless~~ Stainless steel could be used for the yoke, actuator cylinder, and other non-wetted parts of the fluid dispenser, although the filling valve construction is not limited thereto. For example, the valve head, and so forth, alternatively could be a fluoropolymer construction, or a fluoropolymer-coated metal construction, or other material that is essentially inert and stable in the filling environment. The valve head also could include a fluoropolymeric or EPDM sealing ring, and the like, retained in an integral circumferential groove to provide the valve seat.

An amended abstract that is attached on a separate sheet replaces the original abstract.

cc: Replacement Abstract Sheet